

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 11

JULY, 1921

Price 4d.

OUT OF THE RUT

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

Still going vigorously, our friend Stephens, at King's Lynn, has organised a Special Service Force for operations in the villages. The "outline of operations" reprinted below is quite exhilarating, and seems to indicate that Lloyd George's Defence Force has had at least one rival.

SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

OUTLINE OF OPERATIONS

- (1) Assemble at Cozen's Hotel, King's Lynn. Travel in group to scene of operations. Transport: cycles.
- (2) Arrived at destination, leader reads procedure to group:—

PROCEDURE.—Attack all village or district by means of house-to-house canvass. Object: Securing of individual members (men and women). Work in pairs—one man and one woman where possible. When member is secured, take subscription, and take down—

Full name,
Full address,
What union or occupation,
Amount of subscription paid.

Inform new members that a full meeting of members will be called at early date by the agent, and that agent will send notice and official membership card on at same time. Leave leaflets (if any) at each house, and announce evening meeting—this whether members secured or not. INVITE ALL TO THE MEETING AT NIGHT.

Before starting away from group meeting—that is, before dispersing for the attack—definite time and place should be fixed for group to reassemble about tea time.

- (3) All lists of members and moneys should be handed in at tea time to leader, who will transmit same to agent on return to King's Lynn.
- (4) MEETING AT NIGHT.—Outstanding characteristic of meeting should be briskness and vigour from the very opening. Speakers should not be afraid of "letting themselves go."
- (5) Literature sales should be pushed at the CLOSE of meeting—not during it.
- (6) Appeal for members should be made at close of meeting.

PLEASE PRESERVE THIS "OUTLINE" FOR FURTHER USE AND REFERENCE

A very sensible innovation has recently been introduced for the use of Women's Sections in the shape of a secretary's box of utensils and requirements. If the box referred to is generally adopted, as we hope it will be, local Parties will be compelled to bestir themselves and discard some of their ancient and more slovenly ways or the business efficiency of the Women's Sections will make comparison altogether odious. Perhaps they can buy a box? The contents are account book, minute book, receipt book, writing pad, envelopes, index cards, post cards, folders; all post free for 17s. We read that "the secretary's box helps her to do her work efficiently and provides her with a tidy box to keep all her papers in. All books are labelled. Writing pads have headings printed, and are interleaved for copies to be kept of letters. Post cards and membership cards for keeping list of members are printed in a convenient form. The membership cards are packed in a special compartment so that they may be kept in alphabetical order." We understand the boxes have been compiled for the Labour Party by the Caledonian Press Ltd., but orders should be sent to the Labour Party.

An effective handbill for use among middle-class voters has been issued by the Wandsworth Labour Party (142 Garratt Lane). This is a matter to which many Parties will require to give greater attention if the Labour Party is to counteract the impudent and chameleon-like tactics of coalition tricksters, whose artful Press propaganda paves the way for the blackest misrepresentation, and for miscreants to bob up on the morrow under a new guise to profit by the disgust at their own actions of but yesterday! Verily, Carlyle was our one wise man. He knew the truth—and said it.

Now that the out-door season is in full swing, no local Party ought to be content with the prehistoric soap box or the borrowed rickety chair. A portable speaker's platform, such as is advertised in our columns, and obtainable for two or three pounds, adds a tone and effectiveness to a meeting, conveniences the speaker, and incidentally pays for itself by adding to the collection. Mr. Bingley, by the way, is a Labour town councillor, and our readers will find it difficult to get better or more substantial articles. And the price is right.

Some of the useful matters that have reached us this month are regretfully held over for mention in another issue. We have, however, two samples before us which for differing reasons we cannot commend. One is a poll card with somebody's smudgy face, and a conglomeration of confusing letterpress in dirty type on pulp board. As a poll card it might be excellent in Nigeria, where the candidate's complexion might need the disguise which would stamp him as a son of the people there, but in 1921, and in the Labour Party, where we now pride ourselves on better work, really it is shocking. Our friend has either not had faithful advice or faithful service from the printer, or he has ignored advice, and the printer has wanted a job too much to refuse to

turn out a job that is a disgrace to him and to his customer.

Those who are unused to giving out printing orders should remember that a fine tone block simply will not produce satisfactorily on inferior material. Do please show the printer your block, or a "pull" of it, first, and ask for advice on the class of material. If you are cutting down the job to the finest halfpenny, you cannot expect good material as well. If you have *got* to economise, it pays better to cut out the block if you are unable to pay the price for its proper production. Another point friends must realise is that art work—we are not speaking now of poll cards—demands heavier and costlier machines than the average small jobbing printer has put in. But, anyway, we beg our movement, if only for its ideals, to eschew cheap and nasty printing that is a degradation to the operative and an insult to an art.

The second sample we mention is objected to on different grounds. Before us is an excellent sample of a well-balanced handbill, with a "talk" announcing an open-air meeting. The moral of the talk is the attack on the standard of life, and the objection we take is the prominent phrase: "There you see the master class attack (those who own and control the means of life), &c., &c." Now there are two phrases there that, however elementary they may seem to a convinced socialist, are just jargon to the ordinary citizen. Try and get plain John Bull to explain what is meant by "the control of the means of life." He's quite likely to fancy it is mixed up with surgery! And the expression "master class" is a jarring unanglicism that conveys no really positive truth or thought, and is foreign to the broader conceptions of human brotherhood and democracy on which the principles of the Labour Party are mainly based. The phrase is one that in itself recoils on its users, and in many minds arouses a curiously

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Name

Address

What Labour Party are you a member of ?

Date.....*July, 1921*

REVIEWS

"From Liberalism to Labour"

Of immense value at the present time to both the Labour organiser and the Labour propagandist is the powerfully written and lofty statement of Charles Trevelyan's reasons for his transfer of allegiance from Liberalism to Labour. The book embodies more than mere reasons, for the review which it contains of present-day politics and portents is a brilliant contribution lighting up a perplexing situation and embodying a masterful analysis of modern politics. The indictment of latter-day Liberalism is quite the most cutting and convincing arraignment we have seen, and with unanswerable fact and logic the charge of failure and paucity is brought home and the mind pointed to Labour.

There is a special value about this book in that up to a point it reflects the state of mind of numbers of disaffected Liberals, and reading Trevelyan's case they are brought step by step, with at no point any serious jar to political conscience, into the full light of Labour's great possibilities and its heritage as the new emancipator. The book should be read *by Liberals*, and if secretaries would buy a few copies they could make most effective use of them by lending them out among the quite well-known number of those who are at present hovering on the brink. We suggest that even as a business proposition a pound so spent in copies will well repay itself.

There is a further point worth noting about this book. Both its power and its charm lies in the deep understanding that the author shows of the Liberal mind. It is not sufficient, as apparently many Labour propagandists are prone to think, merely to rail at Liberal failure and scoff at their performances as compared with Tory legislation. Nor is it convincing to talk of Box and Cox, or even point to facts to point the

moral. The coruscations on the surface do not disclose the heart and spirit within, and he who would successfully move the electorate of Great Britain must examine not only the superficial characteristics or performances of the great Parties, but seek further into the impulses and hopes and purpose of the *mass of adherents* who comprise them. He will discover good impulses and fine aspirations impelling vast sections of the people in every Party, besides his own. The fool may scoff at their fallacies, but the sage politician will get their point of view, and seek to understand whence they came there, so that he can win them to his own standard. And this is but a simple oft-recurring lesson in organisation. In the agents' training classes, conducted for the Party in the Midlands by the Editor (who, by the way, *never was a Liberal*), it has been pointed out that Liberalism held its power because it expressed the democratic yearnings of a great section of the people, and catered for a great sentiment that had no other expression. Liberal tradition will die hard despite its prostitution and betrayals. There is no benefit in bruising its heels. Mr. Trevelyan, who understands it (as he should do, having been born, and probably baptised, in Liberalism), has the better way. He respects the tradition and impulse and inspiration that moved for generations millions of our fellow-men, and he acclaims the Labour Party as the true guardian of those sentiments to-day. Some few creed-crusty Socialists may quibble, but that Labour should represent an aspiration as well as a creed seems to me to involve no contradiction; nor is there any.

THE EDITOR.

*What you save in Cash you
lose in Efficiency unless
all the officers of your Party
get the*

LABOUR ORGANISER

* "From Liberalism to Labour."
Charles Trevelyan. Allen & Unwin,
1s. 6d. net.

A DIRECTORY OF LOCAL LABOUR NEWSPAPERS

In response to several requests we print below a list of local Labour weekly and monthly newspapers. We should be glad to be notified of any omissions or inaccuracies in this list, and prompt announcement will be given of same.

<i>Leicester Pioneer</i>	10 Albion Street, Leicester	Issued under a co-operative arrangement; weekly, 2d.
<i>Town Crier</i>	262 Corporation Street, Birmingham	Ditto
<i>Derbyshire Worker</i>	1 Church Street, Ripley	Ditto
<i>Nottingham Tribunal</i>	26 Lister Gate, Nottingham	Ditto
<i>Huddersfield Worker</i>	43 Market Street, Huddersfield	Weekly, 1d.
<i>Plymouth & District Labour Gazette</i>	32 Treville Street, Plymouth	Weekly, 1d.
<i>The Dawn</i>	93 Commercial Road, Swindon	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Southwark Labour News</i>	61 Penrose Street, London, S.E., 17	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Leeds Citizen</i>	14 Upper Fountain Street, Leeds	Two or three localised editions; monthly, 1d.
<i>Bermondsey Labour News</i>	57 Upper Grange Road, Bermondsey, S.E. 1	Monthly, 1d.
<i>East End Pioneer</i>	57 High Street, Ilford, London	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Mitcham Citizen</i>	9 Jersey Road, Tooting Junction, S.W. 17	Monthly, 1½d.
<i>The Torch</i>	3 Russel Street, Sheerness	Monthly, 2d.
<i>Kentish Leader</i>	282 New Cross Rd., London, S.E.	Monthly, 1d.
<i>London Labour Chronicle</i>	58 Theobalds Road, London, W.C. 1	Monthly, 1d.
<i>The New Times</i>	23 New Road, Chelmsford	Monthly, 2d.
<i>Labour Record</i>	49 Charles Street, Cardiff	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Rother Valley Labour Journal</i>	Thurcroft, near Rotherham	Monthly, 2d.; issued in two or three localised editions
<i>The Pioneer</i>	3 New Road, Woolwich	Weekly, 2d.
<i>The New Standard</i>	Labour Institute, 35 Silent Street, Ipswich	
<i>The Rising Tide</i>	4 Claremont, Hastings	Monthly, 2d.
<i>The Labour Pioneer</i>	Ruskin Hall, The Cross, Gloucester	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Islington Citizen</i>	295 Upper Street, London, N.1	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Hammersmith Pioneer</i>	154 Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, W. 12	Monthly, 2d.
<i>Southern Worker</i>	60 Holdenhurst, Bournemouth	Monthly, 2d.
<i>Gateshead Monthly Circular</i>	172 Bensham Road, Gateshead	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Surrey & Hants Labour Record</i>	Minster, Trenches Road, Redhill, Surrey	Monthly, 2d.
<i>Sheffield Forward</i>	72 Woodbank Crescent, Sheffield	
<i>The Pioneer</i>	I.L.P. Office, Church Street, Bradford	Weekly
<i>The Pioneer</i>	4 Parradoc Street, Merthyr	Weekly
<i>North Staffs Labour News</i>	45 John Street, Tunstall, Staffs	Monthly, 1d.
<i>Forward</i>	164 Howard Street, Glasgow	Weekly
<i>The Platform</i>	94 Mill Lane, N.W. 6	Monthly, 1d.

FINDING THE "MONEY-RAISER"

An Article We are Ashamed of

With the development of the Labour Party's wonderful network of local organisation, the necessity of raising more money for the work becomes an increasing anxiety to those responsible. Till a great change—and possibly a change of heart too—comes over the policy of the vast majority of the trade unions, I am afraid we shall still see money squandered on the so-called "industrial" field that utilised scientifically on the political field could bring surer and quicker results. The hopeless misapplication of the funds and energies of the unions to blind-alley efforts is yet a lesson, despite plain writing on the wall, that has to get home. So while the ploughing of the sands goes on, stout hearts in local parties must seek to "raise the wind."

Now the man who can do that is born to it. The wind-raiser is not made. Nor is the *good* agent or secretary necessarily a good hand at scooping in the shekels any more than it follows that the agent or secretary in office is a success at his job because he can raise money. Men and women who *can* raise the wind are the salt of the earth to local Parties—pardon to the intellectuals—but they are not necessarily good leaders, good advisers, aye, and I venture, not necessarily altogether sound on every "ism."

Money-raisers I have known are of all sorts. There is the organising and advertising genius, with a powerful drive and soul that's grit all through, who can carry out big things without a crash, and yield at the end a glittering crop of baubees. That man is scarce. If you've got one in your Party marry him off quickly, buy him a house, and pray that his quiver may be full, so that he shall have ties that will keep him long in the land, &c., &c.

There is the man, too, who is a dabster at selling tickets. I have never succeeded at this; believe me, I have not the cheek. But there are men who

are never happy unless selling scraps of paper for whist drives, draws, &c., and the peace and plenitude of the Party can really best be secured by catering for their happiness, and by keeping that pot always boiling.

The organiser with an intuition will never fail to spot the incipient symptoms of the ticket-selling mania in any member of the Party. He will say nothing, but it is his business to let the patient have the disease hot and plenty. He will encourage and incite, and watch the behaviour of his colleague. Just as they say it is a disease that first creates the pearl in the shell of the oyster, so will he, out of a horrid and eradicable capitalist kink, develop a jewel of rare value. Ticket sellers must be treated with discretion. Some men are very vain, not because they are ticket sellers, but because they are men. A vain ticket seller should be told his score, and allowed to have his full throat of crowing. He will go one better next time. Some fellows are cantankerous, not because they are ticket sellers, but because it is a human virtue that men can "go cussed" sometimes. Fancy a world of amiable people! What a chamber of horrors to have to organise! The cantankerous ticket seller is an uncertain starter. You must tell him the truth diplomatically. He may jib if he thinks he is left to do all the selling. On the other hand, he may need a fairy tale about how well someone else is doing before you can sufficiently excite his spleen to get him going. Be diplomatic.

There is one garrulous old gentleman of my acquaintance who joined the Party a year or two ago. I gather it's a sort of deathbed repentance, because for a working man he is phenomenally rich. I guess he has ground the noses of not a few. Anyway, he is a lovely money-raiser, and I mention him because he is a type. He is really great on subscription lists. No man ever worked harder on a list than he. It is usual for him to head the list with a substantial instalment of his con-

science money—he's been a landlord among other things—and away he goes. His talking is incessant, and there is only one relief—to pay up and give him another name to whom he will depart instantly.

Besides the generation of star money-raisers to whom I have referred, there are scores of people in almost all constituencies who are more or less good at this or that aspect of social effort and raising the wind. Only too often these people, though in general agreement, find little interest in the ordinary propaganda and discussions of the Party. There is a tendency for them to break away and seek their social expression in other movements and interests. This article after all is quite serious. Is it not worth while to study and cultivate the material at hand, and to remember that the new social order will not be an exclusive era of high-pitched sentiments, lofty speeches, and intellectual fag, but a life worth attempting even now of

joyous association and something more than austere propaganda? A realisation of this will incidentally solve some of our financial problems, for it is easier to get 5,000 banded to the Party in human sympathy and daily living than to get fifty over the *pons asinorum* of the ABC of Socialism. The money-raiser is happier as the John the Baptist of social happenings. Look out for him, and let him have his fling.

THE ———

(On second thoughts the above shall remain anonymous.)

TO OUR READERS

The present issue has been produced under the influence of the holiday season, a fact which perhaps has already disclosed itself to critical eyes. We make no apology, as we feel our readers would not desire us to be perpetually serious in every paragraph. Even the jaded organiser sometimes fancies Life with a capital L.

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with the

Punch

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HOLIDAY HINTS

We would draw our readers' attention to the selected list of holiday advertisements to be found on page 24. In each case our hearty recommendations go with the advertisement, and we advise prompt correspondence.

Visitors to the Isle of Man will find congenial company at Mrs. Bairstow's. Mr. Bairstow has been a Labour worker for thirty years, and was a pioneer in those days when to advocate Labour opinion meant "roughing it."

The Caister-on-Sea Holiday Camp has been tried and found fitting by many a Labour man (and woman) during its fifteen seasons. It is everything one wants and expects of a summer camp—health, bracing breezes, the sea, sandy beach, bathing, games, boating, inland or sea pleasures, all combined with accessibility, very reasonable prices, excellent company, and efficient arrangements. A prospectus is sent on application, and in itself is almost a dip in the briny.

The Peak of Derbyshire is just another sort of place for a holiday. And the grandeur of the Peak is no less, but merely different, from the grandeur of the stretching sea. If you go for a holiday try Mrs. Ludlow, of the Vegetarian Guest House. One of our friends is a *frequent* visitor and finds every time the rest and enjoyment he needs.

The Nutbourne Holiday Camp is in quite another corner, and a charming one, of this little island. Tucked away on the south-west corner of Sussex, yet easily available, there is camping or huts as you will, and a holiday-ful of interesting beauty spots to visit. Mr. and Mrs. J. Nobel Symington, the organisers, are well-known Labour and co-operative friends, and the place is the right place, with a congenial atmosphere, for Labour folk. There is a prospectus you ought to get.

FROM THE MIDLANDS TO THE SEA

Brighton Bound

BY THE EDITOR

It was wonderfully still and, although so early, frightfully hot as on that eventful Thursday early morn I stole in the shade of the dog roses to the edge of the meadow here to get a last peep, before I started, of the glorious valley of this our western home. From the tiny but historic prominence on which I stood, on a good day, the valley of the Severn opens up its charm for thirty miles to the north and thirty miles to the south. But it is hot, and haze hides everything. The Malverns, six miles away as the crow flies, are but a weird suggestion of sky scraping monstrosity. To the south there is no May Hill or suggestion of Monmouthshire on a dim sky line. Away beyond the Malverns the Black Hills of Brecknock and the heights of Radnor are, as nearly always, a memory of something one seems once in a way. To-day, forty miles of haze separate us. Further north, where the Wrekin crest is sometimes seen, this, too, like the stormy hills of Wales, is bathed in mystery. My morning trip proves a midsummer frost.

In the garage "Duggie" looks sweet and fit for the long journey. "We are going to the sea, Duggie," but to my faithful twin it is all in the day's work. I glance at Duggie's companion, and am reminded that "George Lawnmower" is in disgrace. 'Twas only last night that a revolting murder was discovered, and to the accompaniment of lamentable infantile wailings I discovered a baby frog that had been done to pieces by cruel Lawnmower. It was only after much searching among rocks and ivy that I discovered two real live baby frogs with which to restore infantile glee and banish baby sorrow. No wonder Duggie looks so superior to-day. *She* is no baby-killer. Indeed, she takes a delight, being a twin herself, in joy-riding them everywhere. Ah,

Duggie, *you* are civilised and human!

To the sea! To the sea! Yes, Duggie has caught the spirit. She has never seen the sea, but to-day I am sure she has the true Midlander's overmastering passion to break the endless fetters of hill and dale and explore the new beyond, even unto the edge of the world. My word, she travels. I would I could stifle that too truthful speedometer that tells me of my lawlessness, and, incidentally, Duggie's wondrousness. Thank goodness there are no round white rings and ten miles limits in this part of the country. Nor do they really need a twenty miles limit. They have a more cunning way. Along the glorious countryside there are distributed at fairly even intervals the most seductive and bewitching pubs you ever met. There is nothing, I vow, more destructive of excessive speeds and record runs than this diabolic distribution along the road of places where "good and honest" is still obtainable in chimney seats and from ancient mugs. Quite early the unearthly heat and unholy device referred to fetched us to a standstill, and we both cooled down.

Now we come to our first real hill. This is the famous Broadway, with its gorgeous peeps at golden valleys, and brutal windings at shocking gradients. It is a hill that strains the hearts of ill-behaved engines. Duggie, who has never come off top gear since she left her garage far, far behind, goes up at a noble pace—an absolutely clean run, and with a load that makes me ashamed to ask it. The heat makes no difference, and we negotiate those miles at the top of the Cotswolds at police-forgotten pace. But, stay, I forgot Broadway, that delectable Cotswold township at the foot of the pass, the like of which there is none other for beauty or cleanliness, or pride in both, in all England. In the Cotswolds we still preserve the old England atmosphere. Here the village Hampdens are born, and the men of the Cotswolds live cleaner and nobler lives in their stone-built villages and old-

world homesteads than is dreamed of in your industrial hives and stifling cities. Gaze out morn and night for a long, long lifetime on virgin green and great peeps of landy verdure, and you will not be human if the mind isn't cleaner and clearer for the prospect and the elation that goes with it.

But the sea has modified our sentiments to-day. We are away on the Five Mile Drive. Drat that speedometer! It's too candid. Village after village flies by, and the coolness of stone surroundings and cool liquor not appealing to Duggie, I must perforce go on. There are miles of downhill hereabouts which, thanks to keen eyes and obedient throttle, we take at a heavenly pace. Policemen are delightfully scarce, and the few that are thoughtfully station themselves where bumpy roads and sharp corners make a necessity of our new-found virtue and law-abiding speed. Even the police are gents in the Cotswolds.

This is Woodstock—Blenheim Palace—but having no business there at present I take gently the remaining eight to Oxford, or it will be too early for lunch.

And now we have left Oxford and are all out for Reading. I am afraid we are in somewhat chastened mood (there was a speed limit in Oxford), and although Duggie purrs along with perfect rhythm over a good main road, I am homesick already, and compare the scenery to its disadvantage with the lovely corners in old Worcestershire, with its rich soils and smiling fruitlands. Somehow one *feels* London directly one gets east of Oxford. A curious confirmation of the presence is the habit of "pubs" near London of ceasing to be content with a little sign and big reputation. Instead, they must come out on the footwalk and set up their standard—a painted sign on a tall pole—to make you acquainted with the proximity of "The Blue Pig" or "The Brown Whistle." I don't like the habit, and

Duggie and I are not tempted to destroy our records as we were way back by more retiring signs and more genuine refreshment. No, though there are more policemen, we will go on and rely on Duggie's silent running to deceive as to our pace and progress. Pangbourne is a delightful spot, or at least there is a spot in Pangbourne that is delightful. But that is an editor's confidence. Go on, Duggie!

It was on the Guildford stretch that we came across our second experience of sheer delight. This was a royal forest, and here I found something worth all my trouble and all Duggie's very moderate appetite for petrol. This was a mile of rhododendron hedgerows both sides of the road. I have never seen the like, and they were at the pride of their bloom. We came through eleven days later and they were off. These noble shrubs were not planted yesterday, and I guess the nice old gentleman who got the job done has been dead a long time. However, his good deeds survive, and if he has his just deserts he's gone ABOVE. I, however, a humble socialist, not prone to worship kings and princes, sing his praises and publish his good deeds. And more, as a further mark of my appreciation, I give notice that when my own belated arrival takes place at the destination to which he has gone, I shall move a resolution that he be permitted a rhododendron-coloured gown as a sign of his distinction, in place of the common plain white nighties which rumour tells us are *de rigueur* there.

Ah, the sea! I think we feel it now. I am sure Duggie does, for she is ceaseless in her energy and tireless in her efforts to get away, away. The milestones now are milestones to the sea. The North Downs give the first clear sniff, tempered, maybe, with a mixture of odd miles of land smell. Still, I smell the sea. The rolling country minds one of billows, but Duggie hastens sweetly, and though I spot some cosy speed-destroyers in sequestered places by the roadside, I lick

my parched lips instead and obey the stronger impulse—to the sea! Now we cut out into the fifty mile long black ribbon that connects London-on-the-Thames with London-by-the-Sea. The road is crowded with traffic. But all around are downs, the far-famed South Downs of mutton-y fame. But their glory is worth a nobler song. I should love a day alone in their solitude.

I spy cliffs!—chalk cliffs!! We are nearing the sea!! Hasten, Duggie—drat it, ten miles here!—now again, straight through the town. At last—THE SEA. The green sea.

So this is our destination. Duggie, I am tired, but we will have one spin along that noble front. We do. I am sure ozone affects carburettors, because ever since we smelt the sea Duggie has been livelier than ever. She is quite kittenish on the front, and wants at least her thirty on half-throttle. It won't do, Duggie, there's a policeman!

The sea at Brighton is very, very charming. But so is Duggie. You shall not see our parting at the garage. . . . Good night!

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— I. L. P. —

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mr. Harold Croft has been appointed to the agency in Croydon rendered vacant by the resignation of Capt. H. V. S. Carey. Other new appointments are: Mr. H. A. Rose (late E.C. of the A.S.E.) to Basingstoke Division, and Mr. W. H. Jacob (at present Organising Secretary of A.U. or Furworkers) to Bromley. A number of other vacancies are in process of filling as we go to press.

Mr. M. Burke, Worcester, is expecting shortly to remove to Weston-super-Mare, where he takes up an appointment for an A.E.U. candidate.

The Annual Conference of the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents, which was held on the two days prior to the Party Conference at Brighton, proved a great success, though the agenda was scarce of just those matters on which the possibilities of the conference are greatest. A more deliberative tone was reached than was the case last year—the provision of tables was, after all, a help towards this—and there were no alterations of rules to vex the spirit of reforming zealots. The annual report showed a sum of £400 18s. 2½d. on the income side, there remaining a balance of £50 17s. 3d. on March 31. The expenditure included an item of £91 13s. 9½d. refunded to local funds. Unfortunately no statement was available of how much of this still remained in local balances.

The accounts of the LABOUR ORGANISER were rendered separately with a trading and profit and loss account, and showed steadily progressive sales, a substantial advertisement revenue, and a fair trading balance. Copies of these reports may be obtained by *members only* on application to the general secretary. A conference report will be issued in due course.

THE PROVINCIAL LABOUR PRESS PROBLEM

How it May be Solved

By W. J. CHAMBERLAIN

(Second Article)

Last month I gave readers of the LABOUR ORGANISER the bald outline of a scheme of co-operative production of provincial Labour weeklies which we are at present operating in the Midlands, and which could be as easily extended throughout the whole country. In this article I will endeavour to fill in some of the blanks purposely left in my previous article. A number of inquiries have reached us from wide-awake folk in other parts of the country who are alive to the possibilities of building up an efficient Labour Press in the provinces. Those inquiries are being dealt with direct. All I can hope to do here is to go into details in a general way and invite inquiries on minor points.

To begin with, let me explain exactly how our scheme works. The object in view all the time is to reduce the cost of production to the absolute minimum consistent with producing an efficient paper and, of course, observing trade union rules. One of these days, when the individual members of the Trade Union and Labour movement wake up to the wonder-working power of what I call "financial solidarity," it will not be necessary to approach the Labour Press problem from this wretchedly sordid point of view. But we have to face the facts of the present position, which are that local Labour papers are urgently needed in practically every town in the country, and there is not enough money in the hands of the local Trade Union and Labour movements adequately to finance efficient papers "off their own bat." Nor is there any immediate prospect of raising sufficient funds for such a purpose. We may deplore these facts, but that does not make them any the less obvious.

How, then, can a tolerably efficient Labour weekly be established in such

seemingly hopeless circumstances? Only by some such scheme of co-operative production as that which is now being worked from the Midland branch of the National Labour Press at Leicester. The reading public—especially the Labour section of the public—demands as near an approach to the Capitalist Press standard of production (so far as bulk and appearance is concerned) as it is possible to get. Your readers will not be put off with a four-page leaflet, however much you may endeavour to persuade them that it is a newspaper. They know better. If the average size of the Capitalist Press is round about eight or ten pages, with about forty or fifty columns of reading matter, your Labour weekly has to be somewhere near that size, even though you may be compelled to charge 2d. instead of 1d. An eight-page paper of forty columns is a costly thing to produce, and you have to make up your mind to a big weekly loss while the sales and advertisement revenue is being built up. Any scheme that can knock a big lump off that loss is worth going for bald-headed. A little simple arithmetic will show where a scheme such as ours can knock chunks off the inevitable loss during the initial stages of establishing a Labour weekly.

The *Town Crier* is one of a series of papers published on the co-operative principle. Four of its eight pages are used in common by the whole series, and the cost of producing those four pages is divided equally among the papers using them. We will assume that the cost of producing those four pages is, say, £10 a week. (This figure is merely used to illustrate my point: I have not got the actual figures by me at the moment.) With five papers using the "general" pages, the cost to each paper is £2 a week. With ten papers being produced on this principle the cost to each is reduced to £1 a week—a net saving of £9 a week! The simplicity of this method is almost startling to those who do not know that this principle has been in operation with the provincial Capitalist Press for years.

"But those four 'general' pages would be too obviously 'padding,' and would be resented by local readers." Such was the objection raised by a friend to whom I was recently outlining the scheme. He looked positively silly when I informed him that he had been reading the *Town Crier* for six months without discovering the "padding"! As a matter of fact, it is only possible for the average reader to discover the existence of the "general" page arrangement by seeing the whole series of papers each week—which, of course, never happens, as each paper goes to a different district. The "general" pages consist of reading matter which is of interest to all readers irrespective of the locality in which they reside. There are certain popular features, such as "From a Woman's Point of View," "Our Children's Corner," gardening notes, book reviews, an international news column, articles by well-known Labour writers on current topics, &c., &c., all of which would—or should—be included in any local Labour weekly. The other four pages are devoted to purely local news, and as the same style of type, headlines, and general make-up is followed throughout, each paper is complete in itself.

There are no difficulties in connection with getting the "copy" to the central publishing office, or in getting the papers to the districts concerned. Every paper in the country has to gather "copy" from long or short distances and dispatch supplies all over the area covered. All that is needed in any district requiring a local weekly is a small committee of really "live" enthusiasts, a capable person (two, if possible) to look after the local editorial and business side of the paper, and a comparatively small guarantee fund to cover the first few months. It is impossible to say how much that fund should be: everything depends on the size of the district to be covered, the "push" of the advertisement canvasser, and a hundred-and-one other things. All I can say is that under the scheme I have outlined it is

possible to run a paper on the very minimum loss during its early stages and to make it a paying proposition within a few months.

In conclusion, I want to say that although I have spent all my working life in the newspaper world, I shall be only too glad to know of the existence of a better solution of the Labour

Press problem than that which I have endeavoured to describe in these articles. All I am "out for" is the building up of an effective Labour Press in this country in the quickest possible time. If anyone has a more effective scheme, based on practical experience, let him produce it now—or hold his peace while the rest of us get on with the job.

REGISTRATION DATES *

REGISTRATION DATES FOR AUTUMN REGISTER, 1921

Subject matter	Dates fixed by Act	Prescribed dates for England and Wales	Prescribed dates for Scotland
End of qualifying period	July 15	June 15	June 15
Publication of electors' lists	August 1	July 15	August 1
Last day for objections to electors' lists	August 15 ...	August 4 ...	August 15
Last day for claims	August 18 ...	August 10 ...	August 15
Last day for claims as absent voters	August 18 ...	August 24 ...	August 25
Last day for notification of desire by naval or military voter not to be placed on absent voters' lists	August 18 ...	August 24 ...	August 25
Publication of list of objections to electors' lists	August 21 ...	August 16 ...	August 22
Publication of list of claimants ..	August 24 ...	August 16 ...	August 22
Last day for objections to claimants	September 4 .	August 24 ...	August 27
Last day for claims by outvoters ..	—	August 24 ...	August 27
Publication of list of objections to claimants (as soon as practicable after)	September 4 .	August 24 ...	August 27
Register comes into force	October 15 ..	October 15 ..	October 15

PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF AUTUMN REGISTER, 1921

Nature of documents	Dates until which documents to be kept published in England and Wales	Dates until which documents to be kept published in Scotland
Electors' lists	August 11 ...	August 26
Notices as to mode of making claims and objections	August 25 ...	August 26
Corrupt and illegal practices lists	August 11 ...	August 16
List of claimants	August 25 ...	August 29
List of persons to whose registration notice of objection has been given	August 25 ...	August 29
List of claimants to whose registration notice of objection has been given	Tenth day after publication .	Tenth day after publication
Register	Date of coming into force of next register	Date of coming into force of next register

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REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS

By C. G. E. FLETCHER, C.B.E.,
Barrister-at-Law, Town Clerk of
Islington

Being the substance of a lecture delivered at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., April 16, 1920, to the London Students' Society of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Incorporated).

(Continued)

To state what is meant by residence in a compendious form, so far as it is capable of reduction to definite terms, I cannot give you better assistance than to quote a well-known passage upon the subject to which I entirely subscribe :—

It is not very easy accurately to define what constitutes a sufficient residence for the purpose of voting. The rule upon this subject may, however, perhaps be stated thus : That in order to constitute residence, a party must possess at least a sleeping apartment ; but that an uninterrupted abiding at such dwelling is not requisite. Absence, no matter how long, if there be the liberty of returning at any time, and no abandonment of the intention to return whenever it may suit the party's pleasure or convenience so to do, will not prevent a constructive legal residence. But if he has debarred himself of the liberty of returning to such dwelling by letting it, for a period however short, or has abandoned his intention of returning, he cannot any longer be said to have even a legal residence there."

We need to consider now what is meant by the requirement that a man to be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector of a constituency must have the requisite business premises qualification. Sub-section 3 of Section 1 states that the expression "business premises" in this section means land or other premises of the yearly value of not less than £10 occupied for the purpose of the business, profession, or trade of the person to be registered. You will observe first that

nothing is prescribed as to the sort of land or to the kind of premises. I think we may therefore take it that the expression "land or other premises" means any land and any structure whatever the nature may be, provided that such land or premises is occupied for the purpose of the business, profession, or trade of the person to be registered.

With regard to the yearly value of not less than £10, it is provided by Section 41 (9) of the Act that "the yearly value of land or premises shall be taken to be the gross estimated rental (or in the metropolis the gross value) where those premises are separately assessed to rates, and in any other case shall be deemed to be the amount which would in the opinion of the registration officer be the gross estimated rental, or gross value as the case requires, if they were separately assessed."

I need not dwell upon the question of value, because Section 41, relating to interpretation, makes the matter sufficiently clear for general purposes. In any case other than those specified, the yearly value of land or premises shall be deemed to be the amount which would, in the opinion of the registration officer, be the gross estimated rental or gross value if such land or premises were separately assessed. It is necessary, however, to consider what is meant by the words "occupied for the purpose of business, profession, or trade of the person to be registered."

Business is a very comprehensive word, and its import is frequently indefinite. In a modern dictionary I find that business is stated to be a matter or affair that engages a person's time, care, and attention ; that which one does for a livelihood ; occupation ; employment ; mercantile concerns, or traffic in general. There are other meanings also. Sometimes business is a particular occupation, and the meaning of the term may be affected by the character of the Act of Parliament in which the term appears. It seems clear, however, that it was intended that a business qualification should rest upon

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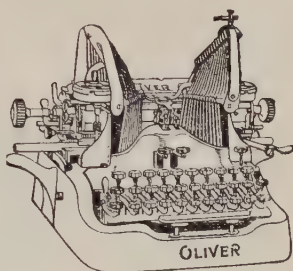
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a broad basis, especially as I have stated the word is so comprehensive. I think the occupation of business premises is irrespective of the fact whether the carrying on of such business results in profit or loss.

The word trade has a more restricted meaning than business, and seems to imply continuity as distinguished from a case where a person may occasionally, but not regularly, be engaged in a particular business.

I do not think the term profession needs explanation, as practical difficulties are unlikely to arise as to its meaning.

So far as I know there has been no case before the courts as to the meaning of the business premises qualification as prescribed in the Act, and therefore there may be some doubt as to its precise meaning for registration purposes. In my opinion it is capable of a broad meaning. As registration officer I have recently had to adjudicate upon a case where one of the grounds of the objection was that the physical operations incidental to the particular business of the claimant were not carried on at the premises in question. In that case I considered closely the words contained in the section, viz., "occupied for the purpose of the business, &c.," and I came to the conclusion that if a room or rooms, the subject matter of a qualification, were occupied in relation to the business for the conduct of matters necessarily incidental to the business—it may be for the purpose of clerical work, or arranging interviews, or settling contracts and such like, then there seems to me to be a sufficiently direct relationship between the user of the rooms, in the manner I have indicated, and the business itself which would satisfy this particular requirement of the Statute. I may illustrate the matter in this way. If a doctor for the purpose of his profession finds it necessary to use a motor car, and there is no question on the facts that the exclusive use, or, at least, the primary and principal use, of his car is for the purpose of his pro-

fession, and he takes a garage for the purpose of the accommodation of the car, then I think it would be right to hold that he occupies the garage for the accommodation of his car for the purpose of his profession, and this would give him a qualification in respect of the occupation of business premises, provided the other conditions were satisfied. Or, in the case of land or a field, if the land or field were used for the purpose of grazing a horse which was kept for the purpose of a man's business, then I think it could be held that such person was in occupation of the land or the field as the case may be for the purpose of his business.

Before leaving this question of business premises qualification, I have to refer you to Section 7 (1) (a) and (b), which contains supplemental provisions as to the occupation of business premises. The same section also contains supplemental provisions relating to residence such as the letting of a house for part of the qualifying period as to which I have already spoken.

Section 2 of the Act relates to the university franchise. This section is applicable to male persons only. A parliamentary elector for a university constituency means a person who is entitled to vote at an election of a member of the House of Commons for a constituency consisting of a university or a combination of universities. That is the definition according to Section 41. What I have already said as to full age and legal incapacity applies in this case. So we find that a person who has received a degree, other than an honorary degree, is entitled to this qualification, e.g., a bachelor of arts of the University of Oxford or Cambridge, who, prior to the passing of the Act, had no qualification as such, is now in the same position as regards the university franchise as a person of higher degree.

In Section 3 of the Act the conditions are laid down as to the local government franchise (men). This section is very important, and prescribes (a) that a person shall be entitled to be regis-

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tered as a local government elector, &c., if he is of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity, and (b) is on the last day of the qualifying period occupying, as owner or tenant, any land or premises in that area, *i.e.*, the local government electoral area. Or if that area is not an administrative county or a county borough, in any administrative county or county borough in which the area is wholly or partly situate. It is necessary that a person to be entitled must on the last day of the qualifying period be occupying as *owner or tenant*. If a person moves into a local government area within thirty days of the last day of the qualifying period he must satisfy the conditions of Section 7 (4), and this is necessary in order to provide against the possibility of frequent and rapid changes for the purpose of securing qualification, and affecting elections.

(To be continued)

REGULATIONS

The Position of Defence and Reserve Men

New Legislation

The consolidated reprint of Statutory Rules under the R.P. Acts (which was mentioned in our last issue as now obtainable as R.P. No. 109, price 9d.) did not remain many days as a complete consolidation of the many modifications the Acts referred to have undergone by Statutory Order.

A further Order (R.P. 110) prescribes the dates for the Autumn Register, which we publish *in extenso* elsewhere. The Order also adds what, in our opinion, is another altogether unnecessary addition to Rule 23 of the First Schedule to the Act, and merely emphasises what was common sense and plain reading to everybody but very official persons before, *viz.*, that registration officers shall expunge the name

of any naval or military voter who has taken steps to prevent his being registered . . . so as to enable him to be registered . . . in another constituency! I heartily wish "The King's Most Excellent Majesty In Council" would sometimes move the previous question when these tinkering amendments are proposed.

The position of army reservists and members of the Special Defence Force has recently given rise to some contradiction and confusion. An official circular has been issued in the matter, which we quote below.

"The Electoral Disabilities Removal Act, 1891, which made provision to prevent the disqualification of persons in such circumstances for then existing franchises was repealed by the Representation of the People Act, 1918, and doubts have arisen as to whether the case of these classes of persons is sufficiently covered in present circumstances by the provisions of the last-mentioned Act. The Government have therefore introduced a Bill for the purpose of re-enacting the provisions of the Act of 1891 in a modified form adapted to the present residence qualification for the parliamentary franchise.

"It is proposed to provide by this Bill that the residence of any person in any premises shall not be deemed to be interrupted for the purposes of the Representation of the People Acts by reason only of the fact that that person has been absent from the premises during part of the qualifying period, not exceeding four months at any one time, in the performance of any duty arising from or incidental to any office, service, or employment held or undertaken by him, subject, however, to the reservation that this express enactment shall not affect in any way the general principles governing the interpretation of the expression 'residence' and cognate expressions.

"Steps will be taken to expedite the passage of the new Bill so as to prevent any question arising in connection with the Autumn Register, with regard to

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the qualification of men mobilised from the Army Reserve and demobilised before June 15.

"It is also necessary to deal specially with the case of members of the Defence Force. Those members of the force who were serving on full pay on June 15 became entitled to the rights conferred upon naval or military voters by Section 5 of the Act of 1918. According to the normal procedure, the nature of the qualification of these persons would fall to be distinguished in the Autumn Register by the letters 'N.M.'; and as they may be expected to revert to a residence qualification for the purpose of the next ensuing register a further alteration of the descriptive letters would then become necessary. This would entail considerable labour and expense which may with advantage be avoided by modifying the procedure in these exceptional cases. Further, the provisions of Rule 17 in Schedule 1 to the Act, requiring the name of a naval

or military voter to be placed upon the absent voters' list unless the voter notifies his desire to the contrary, appears to be unsuitable to the case of persons who have joined the forces for a period of very short duration.

"In these circumstances it has been decided in the case of members of the Defence Force to modify the usual procedure. The nature of the qualification of any such member should be indicated in the new register, not by the letters 'N.M.', but by the letter or letters which would be appropriate if he were not serving in the force, and the name of the voter should be omitted from the absent voters' list unless he makes application that his name may be placed on that list. Steps will be taken with a view to provision being made to that effect by Order in Council.

"In the case of the reservists who were demobilised before June 15 the nature of the qualification will of course be shown in the new register by the letter or letters appropriate to civilians."

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LOCAL NEWSPAPER NEWS

The *Labour Pioneer*, the new monthly journal of the Gloucester Labour Movement, is going well. It has variety and a big effort is being put into it, but we would suggest that of its twelve pages two or three devoted to home or lighter matter would make it a greater attraction to the unconverted.

The *North Staffordshire Labour News* is a sheet printed on the reverse of the *Labour News Service* and folded quarto. Despite this improvisation and limited space it is quite varied and readable.

It even carries a Children's Corner, though "Cousin Kitty" is as brief as her illustration is long. This can be improved, and it is "good biz." to give a good big space to the kiddies. We note a very creditable advertisement income.

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